

But the Lord is coming; as it is said, "He that shall come *will* come and *will not tarry*." But does He want to come and find a *sleeping bride*, a bride *not expecting* her Bridegroom? Ah, no. He will have the saints, in conjunction with the Spirit, saying, "Come." He will have bridal affections in the saints answering to His own imperishable love. And oh! think of the grace that has sent out the heralding cry, "BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM; GO YE OUT TO MEET HIM!"—the cry that has aroused the slumbering virgins, and made them trim their lamps.

Oh, reader, have you heard this cry? Are you awake? Have you trimmed your lamp? Is it burning for Christ? Oh, sleeper, awake! awake! awake! The Lord is coming—*surely* coming, and coming *quickly*! Oh, awake from your midnight slumber! trim your lamp, and be ready!

But you have heard the cry, perhaps, and trimmed your lamp, and it is "*going out*." *You have taken no oil in your vessel*. So it is in the parable. "They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps." There must be the oil of the Holy Ghost—the power of divine light in the soul—in order to have a place in that glorious procession that will light our coming Bridegroom in to the marriage.

Dear reader, will *you* have a place in that wondrous throng? Do you know redemption? Have your sins been washed away in the blood of the